



SALEM CRUSADER

“Contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”
Jude 3

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MARCH 2006

Dear Salem,

Hebrews 4 says,

**“The word of God is living and active.
Sharper than any double-edged sword,
it penetrates even to dividing soul
and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges
the thoughts and attitudes of the heart”**
-Hebrews 4:12

Many student-athletes have asked me how would I defend the Bible to someone who seriously questions its value for life and faith today? First, you must understand that you can't "prove" to anyone that the Bible is true. Only the Holy Spirit can do that (John 7:17). But we do have good reasons that provide a solid base to put our trust in God's Word.

THE BIBLE IS HISTORICALLY ACCURATE

The writers of Scripture gave careful attention to detail. This shows that they were concerned with an accurate record of words and events. The historical and geographical data that the Bible presents has been confirmed by other books, documents, and archeological discoveries. Then there's the specific prophecies concerning Old Testament Israel, its neighboring countries, and Jesus Christ have been fulfilled in great detail (Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Matthew 8:16-17;

Matthew 27:30-31).

THE BIBLE IS REMARKABLY CONSISTENT

Written over 1500 years by 40 different authors in 3 languages, the Bible presents a unified description of who God is and what He planned for mankind. The plan of salvation is the focus of the Word of God from Genesis to Revelation.

THE BIBLE IS WONDERFULLY PRESERVED

No other book in history even comes close to matching the manuscript evidence that points to the conclusion that the translation we have today accurately expresses what was originally written.

THE BIBLE IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

First, the Bible comes recommended by those whose opinion should matter, the writers themselves (Jeremiah 1; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21).

Second, Jesus considered the Old Testament to be God's authoritative revelation (Luke 24:47). The New Testament is a record of His life and inspired teachings and the teachings of His disciples to doubt the truthfulness of the Bible is to question the word of Jesus.

Third, you and I have experienced the blessings of claiming and walking in the fullness of God's Word. His promises have sparked a deep abiding hope within us and to multiplied thousands of other Christians.

There's no other book like the Bible. It's accurate in what it records, consistent in its message, preserved in its contents, and recommended by those who know. The bottom line is this: you don't have to have a degree in archeology or theology or know Greek and Hebrew to have certainty about the truthfulness of the Bible. I challenge those I witness to, who question the Bible, read it and at the same time ask God to prove Himself and His Word to their heart. And you'll come to the place where you will say, "I know the Bible are true!"

Upward bound,
Pastor Pat

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CONSISTORY NEWS

FEBRUARY 2006

TREASURE'S REPORT:

INCOME: \$10,370.45

EXPENSES: \$9591.71

OLD BUSINESS

- Faith Promise Cards
- \$43,942.00 - Current
- \$2,080.00 - Wider
- \$46,022.00 - Total Pledged

- Snow Removal
- Spring Revival
- checking on frequent flyer miles

NEW BUSINESS

- Considering a financial gift to help The Pilgrim Congregational Church of Plymouth, Pennsylvania
- Tabled until March meeting

IT TAKES ONLY A MOMENT
TO BE KIND, BUT THE
RESULTS CAN LAST
FOREVER!

Pastor's Fellowship

Sunday, March 19 at 6 PM - Pastor Pat & Diane will open their home for a Bible study and fellowship. Everyone is invited to come and learn more of God's Word.

This 6 weeks study will be covering:

"The Holy Spirit and the Believer"

There is a workbook for this study. So plan now to join the group, let Pastor Pat know you'd like to be a part of this group.



Salem Evangelical Church
is a member of the
*Conservative
Congregational
Christian Conference*

GOD'S COACHING TIP

**IF YOU'RE NOT FISHING,
YOU'RE NOT FOLLOWING!**

Jesus came to seek and to save the lost; and since you're His follower, witnessing should be a priority. No matter what your occupation, you're to be a "fisher of men" (Matthew 4:19).



MOVIE & A PIZZA NITE

SATURDAY NITE, MARCH 25th
6 PM - IN THE YOUTH ROOM
MOVIE: LEFT BEHIND

CHECK YOUR PRAYER LIFE -

Here are 10 questions for you to evaluate your prayer life. Your answers will give you an accurate picture of your communion with the Lord.

1. Is praying more of a duty to me than a privilege?
2. Am I conscious of the presence of God when I pray?
3. Do thanksgiving and worship have a prominent place in my prayer time?
4. Have my prayers been hindered by laziness, inconsistency, or a wrong attitude?
5. Are my prayers powerless because of disobedience or a lack of Bible study?
6. Does my prayer life have discipline to pray at certain times of the day?
7. Do I have a prayerful attitude throughout the day that I fulfill the biblical command to "pray without ceasing"?
8. Have I the habit of using a prayer list, specifically remembering those who have asked me to pray for them?
9. Do I study the Bible so that I can be confident of praying according to God's will?
10. Have I had any recent prayers answered? Did I give God the glory for meeting my need?

There are many more questions that could be added to this list, but I hope that these 10 are enough to make you call out and say, "Lord, teach me to pray"!

THE NOISE OF THE CROWD

The UPI news service reported that immediately following a soccer game in Athens, Greece, 21 people died and more than 50 were injured. The tragedy occurred when a wildly excited crowd responded to the victory of their team by blindly rushing out of the stadium. What they didn't realize was that a gate at the bottom of one of the 20 staircases was locked. As the shouting, cheering mob reached the gate, many people were knocked down and trampled by the shoving, falling masses behind them. When the gate gave way, the crowd rolled over those who had fallen. Police explained that the fans racing down a narrow concrete stairway and into a curving corridor were cheering and celebrating so loudly that they couldn't hear the screams of those in front who had fallen down.

This kind of mindless activity does not happen just at soccer games. In a subtle and even more tragic way it goes on around us every day. We may not be shouting or blindly running in a crowd, yet we go along, oblivious

to the fact that people are hurting and dying and entering eternity without Christ. Often we, like millions of others, become so absorbed in our own affairs that we fail to hear the cries of those up ahead who are hurting and without hope. In a sense, our lack of love, our lack of seriousness, our lack of concern is contributing to their problem.

**"...live soberly, righteously,
and godly, in this present age"
-Titus 2:12**

We are to pass on our faith in Christ and live in sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and others without which we'll never hear the cries for help above the noise of the crowd.



MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <p><i>Changing Lives ... Transforming Hearts!</i></p> </div>			1 Salem hosting Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm Pastor D.Lippert Speaking	2	3	4 Happy Birthday to Peter Hittenrauch
5 Holy Communion Food Pantry Souper Sunday Sermon: JESUS: THE SON OF MAN Text: John 2:1-11	6 7p Elder's Meeting	7 7p Abraham Prayer Ministry	8	9	10 Happy Birthday to Alan Drake	11
12 Happy Birthday to Brent Rowland Sermon: JESUS: THE GREAT SOUL WINNER Text: John4:1-30	13 7p Executive Meeting 7:30p Consistory Meeting	14 7p Abraham Prayer Ministry	15	16	17 O Happy St. Patrick's Day	18
19 Sermon: JESUS: THE FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATER Text: John7: 37-39	20 f Spring Begins!!	21 7p Abraham Prayer Ministry	22	23	24	25 Movie & Pizza Nite 6:00pm "Left Behind"
26 Sermon: JESUS: THE GREAT GIFT GIVER Text: John 16 7-15	27 Happy Birthday To Marguerite Martin	28 7p Abraham Prayer Ministry	29	30	31	